



Docket No. 420-002

Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of  
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**CHRISTOPHER S. NOLAN** : Examiner Fox  
:  
Serial No.: 09/684,032 : Group Art Unit 3652  
:  
Filed: October 6, 2000 :  
:  
For: **LINER FOR CONTAINER** :  
:  
**WITH SIDE DOOR** :

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER**  
**37 C.F.R. §§ 1.143 AND 1.145**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant carefully reviewed the final Office Action mailed June 16, 2004, and respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's decision to withdraw claims 12, 14, 16, and 18-20 from consideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Section 1.145.

The primary basis for this request is the lack of any support for the allegation that claims 12, 14, 16, and 18-20 are each "directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed." As observed in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), "[t]here are two criteria for restriction between patentably distinct inventions: (A) The inventions must be independent . . . or distinct . . . ; and (B) There must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is required." MPEP § 803.01 (8<sup>th</sup> ed. May